1: Longrigg G-4, 5 (ca. 1915-1940) MH1 Iraq MH1

power station at Baghdad was the property of a British company, that of Basra belonged to the Port, while Kirkuk was supplied with current by its all-providing oil company.

The revised labour legislation of 1942, the activity of the Ministry of Social Affairs, interest in International Labour Office literature and standards, and the employment since 1949 of a British expert on labour questions were guarantees that, though part of the Code was not applied, progress was real towards an effective interest in urban labour conditions and safeguards; it extended to trade union organization, the establishment of Labour Exchanges, housing schemes and welfare, and plans for social security whose realization was delayed only by their high cost. Meanwhile limited welfare facilities—dispensaries, canteens, clubs, sports grounds—were offered voluntarily by a few employers such as the Port, the Railways, and the more considerable industrial companies. They were provided on a much larger scale, and as part of a comprehensive organization, by the oil companies.

In domestic living standards, if it was true that the modernization and Westernization of the urban middle and lower-middle classes still left 'the poor' little better provided in their own homes than fifty years earlier, yet the proportion of households able to rise above their old deficiencies had much increased, and the private life of the middle as of the upper classes showed that in their domestic equipment and housing, hygiene, clothes, and range of interests great changes had been somehow effected in the last two generations. In men's and women's clothing, in the appearance and conduct of households, the serving of meals, and more generally in family and social life, Western ways had gained much ground. Resistance to the emancipation of women was now narrowing; the Muslim veil was frequently discarded; women learned and taught, entered the professions of medicine and law, followed politics (including Communism), took part in social work, and through their Women's Society were heard to demand the franchise. Circles, however, where women were strictly secluded were still considerable, and included the households of many leading notables and the royal family itself.

Social life was diversified by increased visiting between families, by the cinematograph, by cabarets of both Oriental and Western type, by casinos and modernized cafés. The traditional coffee shop kept its place for the male members of all classes and, within the social grade for which each catered, was still the club and business centre of thousands. Club life had developed to include the exclusive social clubs of the rich, the middle-class professional clubs of the lawyers, Army officers, and officials of various branches of Government, and a dozen sporting clubs; but the

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latter, which had their following of enthusiasts, were hampered by lack of playing fields and of funds and, perhaps, by some survival of conservative apathy. Sport,[1] in fact, non-existent in 'Iraq two generations earlier save for tribal games and wrestling, was still far from taking, even among the young, the leading place in popular interest which it occupied in Europe and America. Horse-racing—as elsewhere, half sport and half business—was well supported; it was regulated by law, adopted modern totalizator arrangements, stands and amenities, and was organized by two companies. Of these, successors of a series of Racing Clubs and Companies from 1918 onwards, one maintained a course in the New Baghdad suburb, the other on the royal estate now under development. Hunting and polo were the amusements of a small coterie of Army officers and the rich, under the Regent's patronage.

The immense increase in mobility and travel for all but the poorest had had strong social and psychological effects in modifying the old parochialism and encouraging wider interests. The same is true of the visits paid annually by thousands of the well-to-do to Turkey or Syria, the Lebanon, or Europe; these, as areas of escape from summer heat, were increasingly preferred to the 'Iraqi hill-stations[2] in Kurdistan which offered only coolness and scenery in austere conditions. An expenditure exceeding ID 2,500,000 on summer resorts and rest-houses formed in 1951 part of the six-year plan of the Development Board.

Although illiteracy and deep ignorance were still widespread in the towns and vastly predominant in the tribes, yet two world upheavals, fifty years of immensely increased Western contacts, easy travel and communication, conspicuous material development, an abundant press, broadcasting, greatly multiplied schools, and local and national politics had done much to modify the old isolation of the lives and minds of the poor, and had increased incomparably, among the literate classes, their knowledge of the world and the times. Such knowledge, too often superficial and distorted, was nevertheless a world away from that of the 'Iraqi effendi of 1900 both in content and in the extent of the social range of those affected. Disinterested higher learning was still rare and, theology apart, was confined to a bare dozen students of local history or

[1] Games played were football, basketball, volley-ball, badminton, boxing, athletics, wrestling, weight-lifting, table-tennis, darts, and chess. For the first two of these, various, including national, leagues and championships were organized. 'Iraqi skill at their chosen sports was excellent.

[2] These, dating from the late thirties, were Salah al-Din (formerly Pirmam) with a large hotel and private houses for hire; Shaqlawa and Hajj 'Umran with small hotels; and Sursink, with a medium hotel and a royal lodge which made it the most fashionable. All were accessible by passable roads.

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 MI Middle East
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×874 ×875 varies from six periods a week as a minimum for professors to twelve periods as a maximum for instructors.

Student life and activities.—Most of the men students and about half the women are boarders, their accommodations being in dormitories, for private rooms do not exist. A student committee, elected each term, looks after the physical arrangements, setting down the weekly menu, superintending the reception of provisions from the contractor, and supervising kitchen and dining-room. It has the power to reject any food supply that it considers unfit, and the contractor is obliged to replace it.

●[575] There are various student societies and clubs that hold regular meetings and receptions. Some societies, such as the Arab Culture Society, the English Society, the Social Science Society, the Science Society, and the Art Society, follow subject lines. The Mirth and Entertainment Society occasionally holds parties at which skits and comic plays are presented, and there is a more serious dramatic group. The Cooperative Society, established with capital collected from selling shares to students, maintains a shop on the campus, chiefly for selling tea, coffee, and other refreshments. At the end of each year profits are distributed to the students. Recently a Students' Union was started to coordinate the activities of students and societies and to represent student interests before the College administration. Its members are elected from the student body and serve on a committee with two faculty members who are appointed by the dean. The Students' Union developed plans for issuing a College magazine, the first numbers of which have already appeared. It is hoped that the Students' Union will so develop as to increase the measure of self-government enjoyed by the students.

[526] The athletics program is limited by the nature of the College grounds, which are not yet well prepared for sports. However, soccer is played to some extent, and among indoor games basketball and volleyball, ping-pong, and badminton are popular. Competitions between classes and between individuals are common, and there are occasional intercollegiate competitions. Track and field sports occupy some of the students part of the year, and an annual field-day competition among the higher colleges has been held for the last five years.

THE QUEEN 'ALIYAH INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN TEACHERS

The reorganization of the Primary Teachers College for Women as the Queen 'Aliyah Institute in October 1945, which opened a three-year course for training intermediate-school teachers, was an attempt to overcome the shortage of women teachers for intermediate schools at a time when it was

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 M1 Middle East
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and the boys take the public certificate examinations. Instruction in mathematics and science and some other subjects is in English, but care is taken to cover the appropriate vocabularies in Arabic. An extensively equipped laboratory makes individual experiment possible in physics, chemistry, and biology. A large library circulates many books for collateral reading. Informal organizations include religious groups, the International Relations Club, various sports associations, a debating society, and a staff which publishes a school paper. 872* 873*

Another foreign agency which is making an important contribution to education in Iraq is the British Council. Institutes have been established in Baghdad, Basrah, Mosul, and Kirkuk in which young men and young women are given an opportunity to prepare for proficiency examinations in English as well as for the London matriculation and intermediate examinations. Classes are held in the mornings for women and in the late afternoons and evenings for men. Fees are nominal and the classes are popular. A model kindergarten has also been established in Baghdad which is attended largely by children of English-speaking parents. Clubs which have both social and educational aims have been established in the larger cities. Lecture series, musical evenings, and discussion programs are regularly scheduled for these clubs. Educational films are distributed to schools and organizations in Baghdad. Although not a responsibility of the British Council, the reading rooms established in the smaller towns and larger villages by the Public Relations Department of the British Embassy are much used. Current magazines in English and Arabic are regularly supplied to these reading rooms and a small library of selected titles is available. A radio is usually supplied also. [575 544] [217]